

Murtha
Norwood
Oxley
Pearce
Pombo

Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Shays
Spratt

Strickland
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Udall (CO)
Wynn

□ 1913

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37598 Goodhue Avenue in Dennison, Minnesota, as the 'Albert H. Quie Post Office'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed two votes on November 1st, 2005. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on both H.R. 3548 (the Heinz Ahlmeyer Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act) and H.R. 3989 (the Albert Harold Quie Post Office Designation Act).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2005 I missed recorded votes and would like my intentions included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both H.R. 3548 and H.R. 3989.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 557 and No. 558.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was attending events in my congressional district during today's rollcall votes on H.R. 3548, the Heinz Ahlmeyer, Jr., Post Office Building Designation Act, and H.R. 3989, the Albert Harold Quie Post Office Designation Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both bills.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 2216

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 2216, a bill originally introduced by Representative COX of California, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE of Oklahoma). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AVIAN FLU

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the President has finally discovered that there is a threat of an avian bird flu pandemic despite the fact that it was discovered about 8 years ago. Experts have been talking about the threat of the pandemic for a number of years. Last year the President in his budget spent \$182 million on chastity education and \$100 million on preparation for a pandemic. That is for all investment in flus, vaccines, and antivirals and research.

I am glad that he has had a change of heart now. Now he is going to begin to adequately fund the threat, but it is getting pretty late. The U.S. does not make the vaccines. In fact, there is not a very good vaccine available. And we do not make the antivirals. And we are going to have to get in line behind every other country in the world that had better foresight than this administration.

ACROSS-THE-BOARD SPENDING CUTS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the other day the President spoke out in support of across-the-board spending cuts as an option for reducing Federal spending. I want to applaud the President for joining us on this issue. On October 20, I wrote a letter of thanks to the President, thanking him for supporting across-the-board spending reductions.

In September, along with two of my colleagues, I introduced H.R. 3903, H.R. 3904, and H.R. 3906, 1, 2, and 5 percent across-the-board reduction bills for nondefense, non-Homeland Security discretionary spending. We have 18 members signed as co-sponsors, and I hope to continue building support for the reductions. Every Member in this body should be able to support at least a 1 percent reduction.

This House leadership has actively pushed to rein in spending, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these bills.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2005.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you for promising to work with Congress to offset costs for Gulf Coast reconstruction with spending cuts. I know that you and I are committed to act in a fiscally responsible way in paying for the reconstruction efforts.

In your speech on October 4th from the Rose Garden, you stated that you want Congress to pay for as much of the hurricane relief as possible by cutting spending and that you will work with Congress to identify offsets to free up money for the reconstruction efforts. You also called on Congress to make real cuts in non-security spending.

Mr. President, I have introduced three bills that are significant first steps towards meeting your goals. The bills would enact across-the-board 1%, 2%, and 5% reductions in non-defense and non-homeland security discretionary spending. I believe that by working together on these proposals we can show the American people that you and I are dedicated to exercising spending restraint to prevent more federal debt passing on to future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you during the coming months.

Sincerely,

MARSHA BLACKBURN,
Member of Congress.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE of Oklahoma). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a subcommittee of the Japanese Food Safety Commission, on Prions, which deals primarily with BSE, or mad cow disease, voted to pursue a course designed to open Japan's borders to U.S. beef. This is something that the beef industry has been waiting for for about 1 year, 1½ years now. And the full committee will vote tomorrow on opening trade with the United States, and then this will begin a 4-week comment period, after which it is assumed that borders will open. So we are hoping that by the end of the year we will see U.S. beef going to Japan.

This is certainly important for our beef industry because Japan was buying at one time roughly \$1.7 billion of U.S. beef annually. So it is a huge portion of our beef trade.

Getting the border open has been surprisingly difficult, however. We had two cases of BSE in North America that shut off trade with Japan. Japan